

What is Claimed is:

1. An information providing apparatus comprising:

first receiving means for receiving information about a right held by a registered party, and information for charge processing with regard to said registered party;

storing means for storing the information which is entered by said registered party about said right and which is received by said first receiving means;

transmitting means for readably transmitting to the general public the information stored in said storing means with regard to said right held by said registered party;

second receiving means for receiving information transmitted by a reader concerning possible infringement on said right; and

charge processing means for effecting charge processing regarding said registered party based on the information for charge processing received by said first receiving means with respect to said registered party.

2. An information providing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first receiving means and said second receiving means are constituted by a single receiving part.

3. An information providing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, if said registered party gains benefits from said right through the use of the infringement-related information provided by said reader, then said charge processing means performs charge processing to have a contingent fee paid by said registered party.

4. An information providing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said charge processing means charges said registered party a registration fee when said registered party enters the information about said right held by said registered party.

5. An information providing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said charge processing means effects charge processing causing said registered party to pay a consideration to said reader for the offered information.

6. A server apparatus comprising:

first receiving means for receiving information about a right held by a registered party;

storing means for storing the information about said right received by said first receiving means;

first transmitting means for readably transmitting to the general public the information stored in said storing means with regard to said right held by said registered party;

second receiving means for receiving information transmitted by a reader concerning possible infringement on said right; and

second transmitting means for notifying a charge processing organization to effect charge processing regarding said registered party.

7. A server apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said first receiving means and said second receiving means are constituted by a single receiving part.

8. A server apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said first transmitting means and said second transmitting means are constituted by a single transmitting part.

9. A server apparatus according to claim 6, wherein, if said registered party gains benefits from said right through the use of the infringement-related information provided by said reader, then said second transmitting means notifies said charge processing organization to perform charge processing to have a contingent fee paid by said registered party.

10. A server apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said second transmitting means notifies said charge processing organization to charge said registered

party a registration fee when said registered party enters the information about said right held by said registered party.

11. A server apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said second transmitting means notifies said charge processing organization to perform charge processing causing said registered party to pay a consideration to said reader for the offered information.

12. An information processing method for allowing a registered party to register with a server a right held by said registered party in order to solicit information from readers reading about said right, the method comprising the steps of:

transmitting readably to the general public information about said right registered with said server by said registered party;

receiving information transmitted by a reader concerning possible infringement on said right registered with said server by said registered party; and

if said registered party gains benefits from said right through the use of the infringement-related information provided by said reader, then notifying a charge processing organization to perform charge processing to have a contingent fee paid by said

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